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HISTORICAL NOTES.

THE CAPTURE OF FORT JOHNSON IN 1775.—The following note from Hon. Henry Laurens, President of the Council of Safety, to Lieutenant-Colonel Isaac Motte, who commanded the detachment which on the morning of September 15, 1775, captured Fort Johnson[1], has been discovered since the publication of the papers of the first Council of Safety of South Carolina in the 1st., 2nd. and 3rd. volumes of this magazine:

15th Sept. 1775 9 o'Clock at night.

We have such Confidence in you as to leave no Room to doubt your making a brave Defence in Case of an Attack; and we are persuaded that you will do every Thing that Prudence will warrant, to repel *any Force* which may be brought against you.

Endorsed: Copy to Collo. Motte
15 Septem 1775-

CAPTAIN EZEKIEL POLK.—The following letter from Hon. Henry Laurens, President of the Council of Safety, has likewise been discovered since the publication of the papers of the first Council of Safety:

Charles Town 13th. Octobr. 1775.

Sir—

Two circumstances occasioned our not answering your former Letter—Mr. Henry who was to have called on the president neglected to do so & went out of Town, & as we had written fully to the Honble. Mr. Drayton concerning your new raised Company & had relied upon him for transmitting to you our Resolutions, it appeared unnecessary to repeat them by a Special Messenger.

After you had retired from the Regiment of Rangers[2], we filled up the

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[1] See Vol. I. of this magazine, pp. 280-281, 282, 283, 287 and 290.

[2] See Vol. I. of this magazine, pp. 69-71.

vacancy, & then it was impracticable to rejoin your Troop to that Corp—but in order to give due encouragement to your recollected zeal in the public Service, we Resolved to confirm the order of Mr. Drayton & Mr. Tenent[3] & authorized the former to assure you that your new Company should be kept in pay equal to that which is allowed to the Rangers, & we had reason to conclude that Mr. Drayton had given you the proper information on this head until his late return to Charles Town when we learned from him that he had omitted it.

you Letter of the 2d. Inst. informs us that you have been active in the public cause as a Magistrate & as a friend to Liberty & we approve of the measures which you have pursued for retaining the Enemies of their own & of American freedom in a State of Neutrality[4] we hope such Steps will lead them on after further consideration, to be our friends—& in order to keep your Troops in proper exercise we desire you will immediately upon receipt hereof March to Dorchester & there offer your Service to the *Commissioners for fortifying that Town who will probably assign to you the guarding of the public Store of Gunn powder—inform us of your arrival there & we will transmit such farther orders as shall appear to be necessary. If you should not arrive at Dorchester before the 1st. November, you will then leave your Company under the Command of your eldest Lieutenant & give your attendance in provincial Congress we shall make an early representation of your peculiar circumstances & submit to the Representatives of the people whether it will be proper to add yours as a tenth Company to the Regiment of Rangers or continue it under your sole Command Independent.—By order of the Council of Safety

*Commissioners
Benjamin Waring Esqr.
& others—

Captain Ez. Polk—

ILLICIT INTER-PROVINCE TRADE IN 1776.—The following letter from Hon. Henry Laurens, President of the Council of Safety to the Parish Committee of St. Peter's Parish, has been discovered since the publication of the papers of the second Council of Safety of South Carolina in the 3rd. and 4th. volumes of this magazine:

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[3] Ibid, p. 192.
[4] See Vol. II., pp. 103-104, 261-262, 266-267.

Charles Town 10th. January 1776.

Gentlemen—

As the Continental Congress at Philadelphia have Resolved that Vessels ought not to load with the produce of the Colonies to Trade even from one Colony to another but under the Inspection of Committees & as we are now very well assured that too much illicit Trade has been carried on from this Colony to Georgia & that attempts are daily in pand to spread the Evil still wider, we find it necessary to take every Step in our power to put a stop to its progress; for this end we desire you will be very watchful in every part of your district & Suffer no Vessel to take on board any of the produce of this Colony under any pretence whatever without your permission first obtained & that you are well Satisfied such produce is intended to be transported only from one part of the Colony to another, & that no Vessel attempt to load or take produce on board for any other Colony without a Special license—If at any time you discover persons attempting to contravene the fore mentioned Resolution & orders, cause their Vessels & effects on board to be Seized and Safely detained until you Shall have informed, & received further instruction from, the Council of Safety, or Congress.

By order of the Council of Safety

The Committee for St. Peter's Pury'sburgh[5]—

Endorsed: Copy 10th. Jany 1776.
Comee at St. Peters
Pury'sburgh

A Son of Jean Pierre Purry.—The following very interesting account of a son of Colonel Jean Pierre Purry, the agent of the Government of South Carolina, who was so successful in procuring settlers for South Carolina in the thirties of the 18th century, is taken from *The State Gazette of South-Carolina* for Monday, November 6, 1786:

"Extract of a letter from Neufchatel (in Switzerland) July 1, 1786.

'The Baron of Purry died lately at Lisbon; he was the youngest son of Colonel Purry, the founder of Purrysburg, in South-Carolina. The generosity of that Nobleman towards his native place deserves to be recorded for imitation of others. While he was living he sent to the town of Neuchatel, where he was born, and of which he was a citizen,

[5] Purrysburgh—so named in honor of Jean Pierre Purry, the founder of the town.

50,000l. sterling to build an Hospital and State-House, which are two magnificent buildings—in acknowledgment for such a noble gift, our Magistrate applied to the King of Prussia our Sovereign, humbly requesting him, that he would grant to Mr. Purry the title of Baron, which that great remunerator of merit granted very graciously. The Baron of Purry by his will has left to our town, as a Corporation, 140,000l. sterling, besides 15,000l. in legacies to several of his friends here. The immense fortune he had acquired (in a fair trade, and not by murdering and plundering) is reckoned to be worth 800,000l. sterling. The two sons of John Bull, Esq. Delegate of the State of South-Carolina to Congress, are the Baron's heirs at law, their deceased mother being his niece—He died a batchelor at the age of 76 years.'"

MORE MARRIAGE NOTICES FROM THE SOUTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.—The following are two more marriage notices which the editor of this magazine overlooked when making his compilation of *Marriage Notices in The South-Carolina Gazette and Its Successors:*

We have by the last Advice from *Purrysburg* an account of the noble Effects the Climate of that Colony has produced: There is six Couples embarked thence for *Savannah* in *Georgia,* to be joyn'd in the holy State of Matrimony, and half a dozen pair more are preparing themselves for the same. (Saturday, March 2, 1734.)

Charlestown, Febr. 15. On Thursday last Mr. JOHN GARRET, an eminent Merchant of this Town was married to Mrs. ELISABETH HILL, a young, beautiful and genteel Lady, with a considerable Fortune, eldest Daughter of CH. HILL Esq; deceased. A splendid Entertainment in the Evening was prepared for a large Company, who diverted themselves all Night, and in the morning the hearty Wishes of Happiness and Welfare to the new married Couple were followed by the firing off the Guns of several Vessels in this Harbour. (Saturday, February 15, 1735.)

CHARLESTON'S PORTRAIT OF MONROE.—"The full length Portrait of the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES, for our *City-Hall,* painted by Mr. MORSE, has arrived in the ship *President,* and will, we understand, shortly be ready for public inspection."—*The Charleston Courier,* Friday, December 15, 1820.

"The Likeness of JAMES MONROE, *President of the United*

States, painted for the City by Mr. MORSE, has been placed in the City-Hall, beside the likeness of WASHINGTON, which was painted for the City, at the time that venerated patriot visited our State[6], during the period of his Presidency."—Ibid, Friday, December 22, 1820.

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[6] May, 1791.